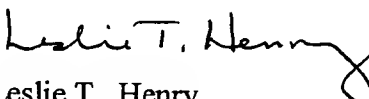


### REMARKS

The specification has been amended to update the cross-reference section to indicate that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/426,568, filed October 22, 1999. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to the specification.

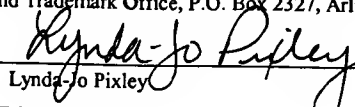
It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Leslie T. Henry  
Registration No. 45,714

CUSTOMER NO. 00826  
ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200  
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL 868638393 US  
Date of Deposit: November 30, 2001  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

  
Lynda-Jo Pixley

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on.

**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:**

**In The Specification:**

Please rewrite the first paragraph on page 1 to read as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/426,568, filed October 22, 1999, which claims the benefit, under U.S.C. § 119(e), of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/106,239, filed October 29, 1998[.]; both of which are hereby incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

Please rewrite on page 1 the section heading which reads "**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**" as follows:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED [APPLICATION] APPLICATIONS**

FOUETT 00626560